Docket No. AT9-99-159

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for processing voice messages, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:

recording a voice message;

responsive to recording of the voice message, automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;

responsive to recording the voice message, automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and

sending the text message with the appended voice message.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the text message to form a received text message;

parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator indicating that the received text message is a voice message; and

responsive to a presence of the indicator, presenting controls to listen to the voice message.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the received text message is an electronic mail message.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is a text string.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a personal computer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a work station.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a personal digital assistant.

8. A method in a data processing system for sending voice messages, the data processing system comprising the computer implemented steps of:

creating a voice message;

responsive to creating the voice message, automatically inserting an identifying string into a text message identifying a presence of the voice message;

responsive to creating the voice message, automatically appending the voice message to the text message.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the text message is an electronic mail message.

10. A method in a computer for receiving a voice message, the method comprising:

receiving a text message;

parsing the text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a voice message associated with the text message; and

responsive to the presence of the identifying string, displaying the text message as a voice message in

a message list.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

responsive to a presence of the identifying string, displaying controls for presenting the voice message.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the text message is an electronic mail message.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the controls include a play control, a rewind control, and a fast forward control.

14. A messaging system for use in a data processing system, the messaging system comprising:

a graphical user interface, wherein the graphical user interface provides selections for user input to create and send voice messages; and

a message processing mechanism, wherein the message processing mechanism has a plurality of modes of operation including:

a first mode of operation in which the message processing mechanism waits for a user input;

a second mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to record a voice message, in which the message processing mechanism stores voice data in a file;

a third mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to select a recipient for the voice message, the message processing mechanism receives a selection of a

recipient for the voice message; and

a fourth mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to send the voice message and to a presence of a recipient for the voice message, in which the message processing mechanism creates a text message, inserts a identifying string, identifying a presence of the voice message in the text message, appends the file to the text message, and sends the text message to the recipient.

15. The messaging system of claim 14, wherein the message processing mechanism further includes:

a fifth mode of operation in which the message processing mechanism waits for a receipt of a text message;

a sixth mode of operation, responsive to receiving a text message, in which the message processing mechanism parses the text message to determine whether an identifying string identifying a presence of a voice message is present; and

a seventh mode of operation, responsive to a presence of the identifying string, in which the message processing mechanism causes the graphical user interface to display the message as a voice message in a message list.

16. A data processing system for processing voice messages, the data processing system comprising:

recording means for recording a voice message;

inserting means, responsive to recording of the

voice message, for automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;

appending means, responsive to recording the voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and

sending means for sending the text message with the appended voice message.

17. The data processing system of claim 16 further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the text message to form a received text message;

parsing means for parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator indicating that the received text message is a voice message; and

presenting means, responsive to a presence of the indicator, for presenting controls to listen to the voice message.

18. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the received text message is an electronic mail message.

19. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the indicator is a text string.

20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a personal computer.

21. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a work station.

22. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a personal digital assistant.

23. A data processing system for sending voice messages, the data processing system comprising:

creating means for creating a voice message;

inserting means, responsive to creating the voice message, for automatically inserting an identifying string into a text message identifying a presence of the voice message;

appending means, responsive to creating the voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message.

24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the text message is an electronic mail message.

25. A data processing system for receiving a voice message, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a text message;

parsing means for parsing the text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a voice message associated with the text message; and

displaying means, responsive to the presence of the identifying string, for displaying the text message as a voice message in a message list.

26. The data processing system of claim 25 further comprising:

displaying means, responsive to a presence of the

identifying string, for displaying controls for presenting the voice message.

27. The data processing system of claim 25, wherein the text message is an electronic mail message.

28. The data processing system of claim 26, wherein the controls include a play control, a rewind control, and a fast forward control.

29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for processing voice messages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions recording a voice message;

second instructions, responsive to recording of the voice message, for automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;

third instructions, responsive to recording the voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and

fourth instructions for sending the text message with the appended voice message.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

fifth instructions for receiving the text message to form a received text message;

sixth instructions for parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator indicating that

the received text message is a voice message; and

seventh instructions, responsive to a presence of the indicator, for presenting controls to listen to the voice message.

31. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sending voice messages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for creating a voice message;

second instructions, responsive to creating the voice message, for automatically inserting an identifying string into a text message identifying a presence of the voice message;

third instructions, responsive to creating a voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message.